estate cattle was an old privilege going back many years and that it was a great encouragement to labour to settle down and make homes in Peermade. The trouble was that cattle were necessary on estates for several reasons and they belonged to their Kanganies and coolies and not to the proprietors, so that, if the present rules were to stand, they would all have to pay the grazing tax, which would be a distinct hardship to them, small as it might seem, and would cause dissatisfaction amongst their labour. The coolies, being family people, had to keep cows to supply their children with milk so that on an estate of 600 acres, 200 or 300 cattle (cows and calves) might be required for that purpose. Again, bulls had to be kept on estates for carting purposes connected with the motor lorries of Mundakayam, there being no outside cartmen in Peermade as in Kottayam for instance, and if they did not make their own carting arrangements they should be cut off entirely from communication with Mundakayam. Those cart bulls were also owned by their labour and should surely be entitled to free grazing. Some 30 or 40 carts were required per estate for that purpose, so that the old free allowance of 500 head of cattle for all purposes for each estate was but a reasonable one. The extra revenue to be derived from that source was insignificant. Its collection would only lead to friction between forest rangers and the coolies, whose cattle were liable to be impounded whenever they strayed from an estate to Government grass land. The Member, therefore, requested that they might be allowed to revert to the old grazing rules, by which 500 head of cattle were allowed free grazing, the right being transferable from one estate to another and not being limited to cattle owned by the proprietors. Of course, if Tamil Kanganies and coolies who had resided 20 or 30 years on the estates could be considered "Travancoreans," as they surely should be after such long residence, then the grievance of the proprietors would be met, as they would be exempt from the tax as being "Travancoreans".

Dewan's reply.—A report has been already received on the subject from the Conservator of Forests. A further report will be called for from him on the Member's representation and the question again considered on receipt of that report.

23. Exclusion of the Cardamom Hills from the jurisdiction of the Forest Department.

Mr. Sanyasi Mallayan Chetti (Member, Devicolam taluk) said that, in pursuance of the orders of Government, the cardamom growing areas had been separated from the Forest areas in the Cardamom Hills Reserve. But the former area had not so far been formally transferred to the jurisdiction of the Revenue Department. He understood that it had been suggested that, even in regard to that area, the jurisdiction should continue to vest in the Forest Department as there were some tree-growths here and there in that area. The area did not as a fact contain much valuable tree-growth. The Member, therefore, requested that the cardamom growing area, if not the entire Cardamom Hills Reserve, be disafforested and transferred to the jurisdiction and control of the Revenue Department and all interference of the Forest Department in so far as that area was concerned completely stopped. In regard to the removal of timber from patta lands, the owners of cardamom lands under the old rules were granted free passes, while the new cultivators were required to pay seigniorage rates. That was hard because, while the old cultivators had paid a *tharavila* of only Rs. 10 per acre, the new cultivators had paid at the rate of Rs. 25 per acre. There was, therefore, no justification for the distinction and he prayed that it be wholly removed. A similar distinction was also observed in the matter of permits for the grazing of cattle. That should also be done away with.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

(3) Salt.

24. Development of home-salt culture and the creation of a separate Salt Department for the State.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram taluk) first represented that, of the total quantity of salt required for consumption in the State, about one-half had to

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